

Garden of Faith, Transformation and Acceptance

**Grand Chapter of Louisiana
Order of the Eastern Star**

**Martha Jo Schexneider
Worthy Grand Matron
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April 2025 – Newsletter

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From the desk of the Worthy Grand Matron:**

As most WGM's say in their April newsletter, WOW! Time really does fly. I cannot believe that we are finally here. I am very honored to have been installed as your Worthy Grand Matron. Thank you to all that participated in making the 2025-2026 Grand Family Installation a memorable occasion. As we look forward to April, the month brings us Easter and of course those April showers! May you have a wonderful Easter and enjoy the May flowers.

Congratulations to Donna Nelken-Baker, PGM and James Duncan, PGP! Grand Chapter was a success, and you have earned your PAST title. I look forward to the coming years and your continued service. And congratulations to our newly elected Grand Line. I look forward to you joining our Grand Family.

To my installing Grand Officers, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Kathy, Rocky, and Susan, it meant the world to me for you to step in for Shirley, Gene, and Terrie. Debbie, Jane, Marilyn, and Oscar, you all mean so much to me and I am very lucky to have you all to call on. Juanita, the tribute was simply beautiful. Linn, what an honor to have you present my grand family and lead the Arch. Words are just not enough to thank you all but know I do thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I am hoping to fill our newsletter with points of inspiration. Please, send me emails about what your chapter is doing to support your community. Anything your chapter does to support the homeless, those with food insecurity, and the support of our elderly and youth. Tell me what you are doing so I may share with our membership and give them ideas or encouragement.

Each month I will explain a little about my special projects. Let's talk about animal rescue/shelter support. My goal is for you to assist locally. I am not asking you to raise funds but make donations of time and goods to your local rescues and shelters. You may not know

but you can support by offering help, by fostering animals or adopting them. The nice part about fostering is the rescue will take care of medical care and food. All you must do is give your time. If you are not sure about owning a pet, it is a good way to do a trial run. Send a short paragraph about what your chapter is doing to our State Chair, Sister Angie Lamb adlamb0810@gmail.com or mail to 164 E Parkway St, Lake Charles LA 70605.

Coming up we have Mississippi Grand Chapter the 13-16th in Olive Branch, MS. Our hearts go out to Mississippi on the sudden death of their WGM, Sister Onaye Farrish. Your WGP and I will be traveling to her services on April 12th in Oxford, MS and on to their Grand Chapter to support my dear friend Melinda Ryan, WGM acting. We also have the joint homecoming of the WGM & WGP on May 3rd at the Lake Charles 165 Lodge located at 717 Hodges St. The building is fully restored and if you haven't been since before the hurricanes five years ago (yes we had back to back over here) it is a beautiful site to see.

The new DDGM's and Grand Supervisors should be starting their schools now. Please, I encourage you all to attend. I cannot stress enough the importance of these schools. Getting together with your sisters and brothers and going through the work with instruction is the best way to learn.

Let me close with this thought. My favorite quote of all time is

"He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals." –Immanuel Kant

It is the closing of my email. I truly believe that we should treat ALL creatures kindly, human or animal. Before unkind words are said, stop and think about what you are going to say. Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? When in doubt, there is always, Bless your heart!

Always remember,
Be the Butterfly!

Jo Schexneider
Worthy Grand Matron

UP-COMING EVENTS:

April 5th

Honor Day Hosted by District One - Honor event for Angela McNicoll, Associate Grand Matron and Cloe Rinehart, Grand Organist, for 2025 - 2026. Event will be held on April 5th, 2025 at 12 noon at Sunset Lodge. Receiving line and program to follow the meal. Attire will be church casual.

May 3rd

The members of districts 7 & 6 invite you to the homecoming of the Worthy Grand Matron Jo Schexneider and Worthy Grand Patron Arthur Roberts. May 3rd, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in Lake Charles. The event will be held at the Lake Charles #165 lodge, home to Ruth Chapter #16. 717 Hodges St, Lake Charles. For information contact Laura Doxey, DDGM 337-912-8548

June 1st

100th /celebration of Metairie Ridge Chapter No. 169
11:00 AM with Reception to follow
2122 North Causeway Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70001

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary:

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Roster 2024-2025 - \$5.00 Each

Revised Book of Instruction - \$4.00 Each

Ritual – Large Spiral Bound - \$26.00 each (5 ¼ x 8 ¼) – Navy Blue

Ritual–Extra Large spiral bound-\$31.00 ea. (7x10 ¾) - White

Constitution Pages Only, \$4.00

Revisions, 2021, \$1.00

Constitution By-Laws Revision, 2022, \$1.00

Constitution Revision, 2023 \$1.00

Constitution Tabs, \$3.62

Constitution Pages and Tabs, \$8.10

Constitution Binder, \$6.00

Please contact the Grand Secretary at the following email address only: laoesgrsec@gmail.com.

Also, please include your chapter name and number. Secretaries and Members, please make all checks payable to “Grand Chapter of Louisiana, OES”. Thank you.

Fraternally,



PGM, Grand Secretary

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